RTTY

NEWS OF AMATEUR RTTY

JULY, 1962

30 Cents

Vol. 10, No. 7

JOHNNY ORTIZ, KP4GN

RTTY, Inc.
372 WEST WARREN WAY
Arcadia, California
Return Postage Guaranteed

HORSE TRADES

This page of the Bulletin is for use of amateurs who have RTTY EQUIPMENT FOR SALE OR TRADE and those looking for equipment to buy or trade. It is a free service and may be the means of getting someone on the air.

HORSE TRADES

FOR SALE: Keyboard perforator, with end of line indicator, and power supply. $50.00. W1BGW, 28 New Haven Street. West Roxbury 32, Mass.

FOR SALE: Model 26, complete with communications type. $65.00 Model 15, complete with communications type, and governed motor. $85.00 both good condition. W7DQT, RR2, Box 160, Lebanon, Oregon.

FOR SALE: Model 14 TD, with 60 speed gears $45.00 K5BQA, 10756 Wyatt Circle, Dallas 18, Texas.

WANTED: Manual or circuit for Navy FSK exciter Model FSA. Metal Table for 15 or 19. Doghouse for 19 cover, XRT34, XRT 210. W4NZY, 119 North Birchwood Ave., Louisville 6, Ky.

WANTED: Polar relays, 255A. Toroidal coils 88mhy. Tuning fork, TM-4796-435 cycles or equiv. WE Model 72A Frequency meter. W8UJB, 1104 West Market Street, Akron, Ohio.

FOR SALE: Model 14 Typing reperfs, W4NYF, 405 NW 30th Terracs, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

WANTED: O-5B/FR or similar FSK exciter, also BC 1031 Panadapter. W3LST, 228 Plummer Street, Oil City, Pa.

WANTED: Set of 60-speed gears for 14FRreperf/trans. 78509/78510/102012/102041/102042. Code bar locking lever, 103310, fraction type palletts, slant zero, and wiring diagram. W6ZVV, 1608 Hemlock Ave., San Mateo, Calif.

AUTOMATIC RTTY IDENTIFIER

R. W. Gervenack — W7FEN

This device was developed because I seem to type by word, such as it is, and typing call signs gave me a "bad time," besides taking a lot of time. Also, I noticed, that when signals are weak that I could copy them with less errors at 60 wpm speed. Therefore, I theorized, if I could send at 60 wpm with equipment that I could set-up faster than cutting tape: the station being called could copy me without asking for a qrz. This was proved the first time device was put into operation when making contact with W2LRW on 3.6 mc.

OPERATION

The push of a button starts the device which transmits the time, figures and letters of nine manual setters, D E ,W7FEN and BOTHELL WASHINGTON and automatically rests and stops. Thus; —2135 W6AEE W6AEE W6AEE DE WEFEN W7FEN W-7FEN BOTHELL WASHINGTON. The figures and letters set in by the manual setters and the W7FEN may be repeated one, two or three times. The total time for full readout is about ten seconds.

DESIGN

It should be pointed out that the use of relays to perform these functions should not be new and many configurations may be used to accomplish the same. My aim was to develop a system with a minimum of relays and switches.

This was the challenge and several shortcuts were used that are unorthodox.

The Baudot code is used and the stepping and Ledex switches were obtained surplus, with the remaining parts coming from the junk box, xyl's hair pins, etc.

The clock, shown in the sketch, is home brew except for the clock motor and gears and can be adjusted to 1.0% by the brass screws used for contacts.

The setter,s shown in the sketch, were made from 1/4 inch masonite, small copper nails, wire, wood, aluminum table top moulding, hair pins, drill rod, old bushings and old contact material from other pieces of discarded parts with a few machine screws, washers and nuts. One stepping switch and two ledex switches set up the code for the qth, nine setters and W7FEN.

The "program" is a 22 contact 6 bank stepping switch. One bank controls the operation of switching to the clock, setters, W7FEN, qth and reset and stop. The other five banks are wired to set up the code for, D E, spaces and the clock.

The TD is the keyboard mechanism of a model 12 with a snap-action switch added to operate the stipping and ledex switches.

The power supply for the DC circuit is half wave rectified with RC filtering to produce around 100 volts. This kept the number of switching relays to a minimum (3, plus a latch-in type, for start-stop operation) and at the same time permits the stepping and Ledex switches to operate at 60 wpm speed.

SEQUENCE OF OPERATION

1. The push button PB is held in for a second to bring the TD motor up to speed through the energising of LR (in) coil and contact LRI by PBI, energize the DC Power supply but keeps the DC votage circuit open by PB2, opens LR2, which shorts out the output of the device when off but PB3 maintains this circuit until the push button is released.

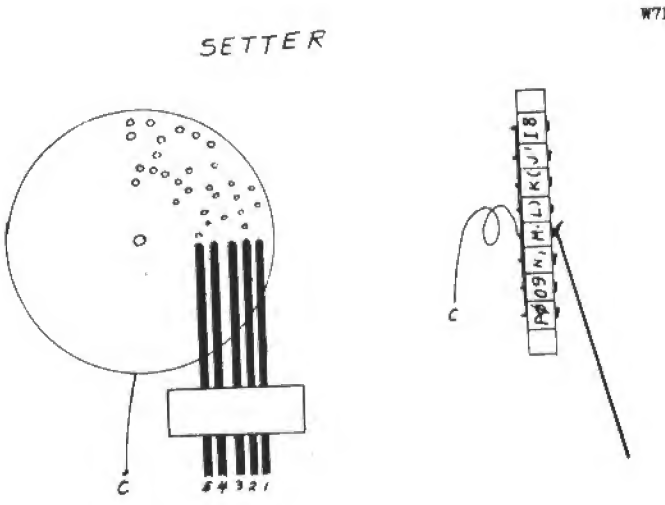
2. The push button is released, connecting the DC supply through PB2 to the dry contact on the TD shaft to pulse the program stepping switch S1 through A1, B1 and C1 relay contacts. PB3 and LR2 are open.

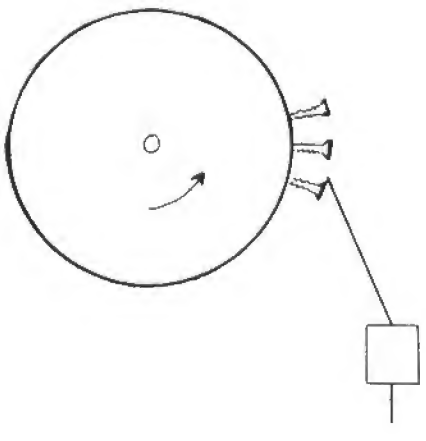
3. The first 6 points of S1 are on "Blank." Point 7 is wired for "figures." Points 8, 9, 10 and 11 connect to the clock for time.

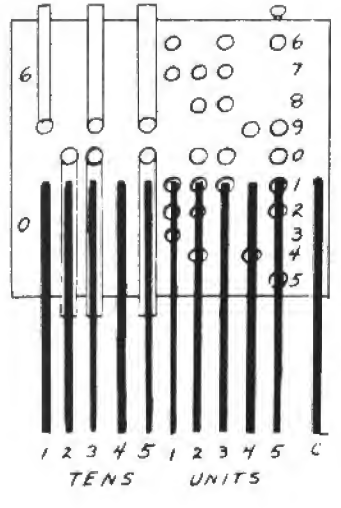
4. On point 12 of S1 relay A is energized, opening A1 contact (opening the DC supply to S1) and closing A2 contact (applying the DC supply to L1). The Ledex switch L1 (12 position) starts with "space," the nine setters, "space" and "letters." On the 11th position contact A1 is jumpered thus energizing S1, causing S1 to advance to the next position. A relay is dropped out the same time L1 advances to position 12 (Zero). L1 no longer receives pulses since A2 is open and A1 is closed routing the DC supply to S1. L1 operation may be repeated through S1 positions 13 and 14 by the repeat switch.

5. Positions 15 and 16 of S1 are wired for the letters D E.

6. Positions 17, 18 and 19 of S1 brings in L2 for W7FEN, similar to the operation of L1 (operation 4), through relay B.







CLOCK

7. Positions 20 of S1 brings in S2 for CR, LF and qth (BOTHELL WASHINGTON) similar to the operation of L1 and L2, through relay C.

8. Position 2 of S1 energizes LR (out) opening contact LR1 while at the same time advancing to position 22.

9. All switches are in the "start" (all contacts to TD open) position, the DC supply and motor are turned off and LR2 closed. Having LR2 closed does not require the TD motor to stop with the start contact closed.

W7FEN

SUMMARY

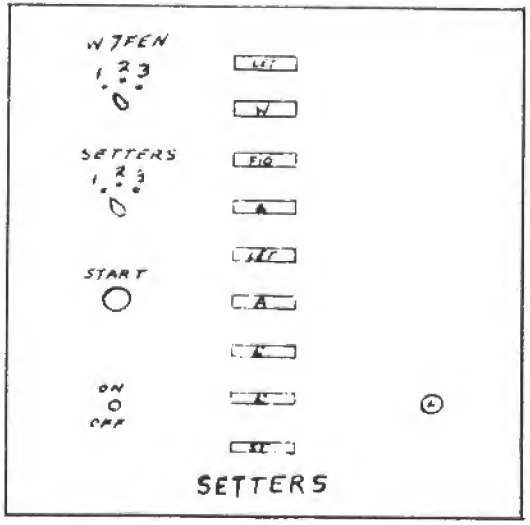
The patience and help of Dora, my xyl, while I was working on this device should not go without comment especially the bits of material, such as hair pins she contributed (plus ideas) were most helpful.

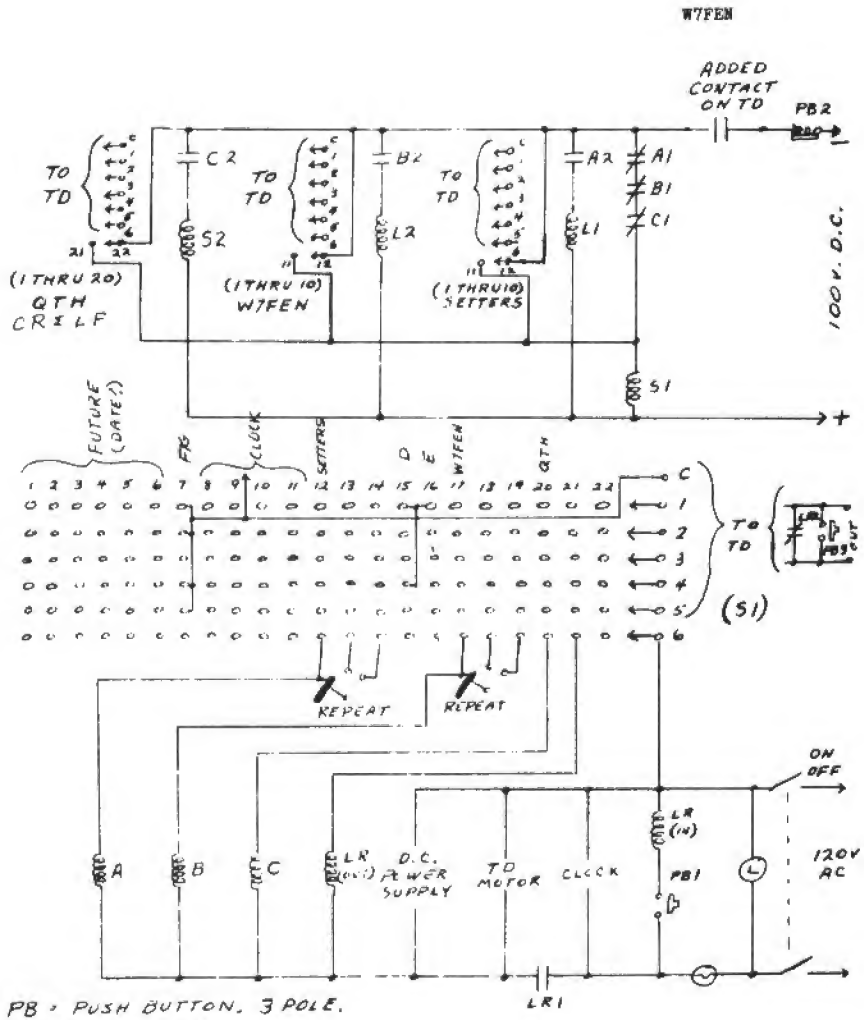
The system has performed much better than expected.

It is not recommended that this design be followed but hope that anyone interested in a device, such as this, may realize that a system can be designed with a minimum of parts.

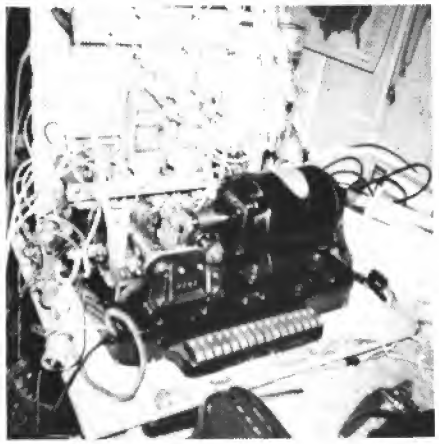
For someone who does not possess tape gear may find this device a useful piece of equipment to add to his RTTY station.

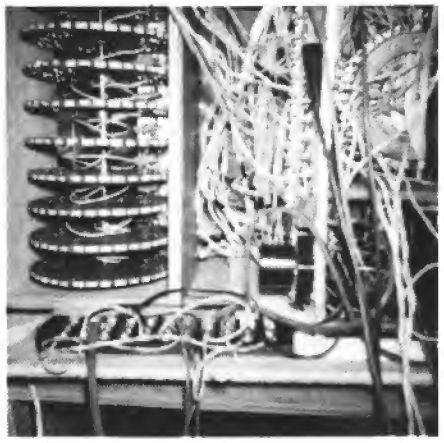
Robert W. Gervenack, W7FEN

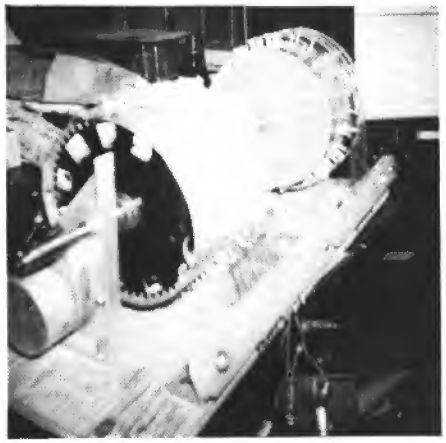




PB = PUSH BUTTON, 3 POLE.
LR = LATCH RELAY.
A-B-C 1 N 4 1 4 RELAY.
S1-S2 STEP SWITCH. 24V.
L1-L2 LEDEX SWITCH. 24V.







THE DRAKE 2-B COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVER

By R. H. Weitbrecht — W6NRM

Note, this is an on the air check on one of the current newer amateur receivers. W6-NRM is well known for his operations on RTTY and as such, his report is timely. Ed.

The new DRAKE 2-B RECEIVER has turned out to be a really wonderful receiver, especially for radioteleprinter reception, as well as for the other modes such as radiotelegraph and, presumably, single sideband radiotelephony. In fact, it is the best all-around receiver design yet to appear on the amateur equipment market in 15 years, since the advent of the Collins 75A series of receivers. The DRAKE 2-B has all the necessary attributes of a modern design receiver — namely, sensitivity, stability, selectivity, and other desirable features adaptable to the requirements of the various modes of reception —and all these at a very reasonable price.

Basically, the DRAKE 2-B uses a crystal controlled front end type of superheterodyne circuit — same as employed in the costliest receivers on the market. Only in this way can the required stability be obtained needed for the most critical requirement of RTTY reception as well as SSB and CW. The DRAKE specifies its drift to be not more than 400 cps during warmup (15 minutes to half an hour); to remain within 100 cps after warmup; and less than 100 cps for 10 percent line voltage variation. Note that this specification applies to any frequency range as the receiver may be set up on — whether 3.5 mc or 30 mc! It is to be commented that none of the other major makes of amateur equipment, aside from Collins, have ever bothered to consider crystal controlling their front ends, with the sad results all too apparent when trying to tune and hold those critically tuned signals such as RTTY — especially narrow shift.

The I-F selectivity arrangement in the DRAKE 2-B is a wonder to behold. It has a passband essentially flat topped and steep sided, quite reminiscent of a mechanical filter, and the bandwith is adjustable to one of three values 3.6 kc, 2.1 kc, and 0.5 kc. And, furthermore, the passband is tuneable over a 5 kc range around the fixed BFO frequency. When receiving a signal, this passband tuner can be adjusted as needed to "push the interfering adjacent channel signal over the cliff", just like one does with the 75A4 system. For RTTY reception, the 2.1 kc bandwith setting has been found to be optimum, and it is a marvel to find that one can separate RTTY channels spaced 1 or 2 kc apart and be able to copy either one. More of this in a moment.

The DRAKE 2-B covers the entire spectrum from 3.0 to 30 mc; however the heterodyning crystals as supplied as standard equipment permits coverage only on the five major amateur bands, 80, 40, 20, 15 and (partially) 10 meters.. The receiver dial is therefore marked only for these major bands. However an extra calibrated scale spanning 600 kc is included for use when tuning such ranges anywhere in the spectrum mentioned above. Instructions are given to calculate and procure the extra crystals needed for such other ranges. In this way, the DRAKE 2-B can be made to cover WWV, MARS, commercial/foreign broadcast, etc. with the same high grade reception that it provides on the amateur bands.

It should be mentioned that actually the receiver covers a spectrum from 3.5 mc upwards. But in order to cover Air Force MARS frequencies, its lower limit is extendable to 3.0 mc by modification on one of the five extra bandswitch positions to add padding capacitors and a proper crystal to the R-F section of the receiver. The Drake Company has prepared a special instruction sheet on this matter.

The Drake 2-B receiver seems to be very adequately sensitive. Specifications call for 1/2 microvolt for 10 db signal-to-noise ratio, a value verified by laboratory check with a signal generator with microvolter control. Signals that can be heard with any other receiver come through well on this receiver. When coupled to a reasonant antenna, antenna noise now sets a limit to any useable reception, even in a quiet location. No sensitivity problem in this way, then!

The receiver features switchable diode detection or product detection, in order to accomodate all modes of signal reception, whether AM phone, SSB, CW, or RTTY. On all modes except AM, the product detector

proves itself to be quite efficient and has inherently high gain. Fast or slow AVC control is available, and it may be remarked that this particular receiver has an extremely well designed and smooth working AVC arrangement. AVC can be inserted or removed by degrees even during CW or RTTY reception. It is impossible to "block" the receiver, even when receiving a weak signal under severe local QRM conditions. And the receiver does not block even when on one's own transmitted signal — assuming of course that the antenna is switched to transmitter from receiver when transmitting. In this way the receiver serves as an excellent transmitter monitor, and it is used in this manner when operating RTTY. At least the receiver works very smoothly and has no noticeable frequency change or drift even when "swamped" with lots of RF into its front end. This is a strong point when one tries to "zero-in" upon a signal with his VFO/transmitter setup.

The audio system is quite conventional, incorporating two stages with inverse feedback from voice-coil (4-ohm) output. Only this 4-ohm output is available, and also a headphone jack is provided which connects to this same output. The receiver is designed to be used with a loudspeaker, however this same 4 ohm output can be stepped up to 600 ohms or any other required value using an appropriate "reversed" speaker transformer mounted externally. By using a 4 ohm to 7000 ohm transformer one can obtain ear blasting headphone reception if that is ever needed. So the Drake receiver audio system is quite adquate. The 4-ohm connection is a perfect match to the Mark III/IV RTTY Terminal Unit.

RTTY OPERATION OF THE DRAKE 2-B AT W6NRM

The DRAKE 2-B receiver was procured through the kindneses of WØAJL for evaluation and possible purchase at W6NRM. The receiver was found to be perfectly satisfactory right from the beginning, and it was put to work "at once" for receiving RTTY signals feeding into a Mark III/IV radioteleprinter terminal unit. It is comforting, as always can be the case with a crystal controlled front end receiver, to tune in and hold a stable signal for long periods of time, and not have to readjust due to drift in receiver. And it was surprisingly easy to tune in and hold a 100 cps NFSK RTTY signal in spite of the rather simple mechanical tuning arrangement in the receiver.

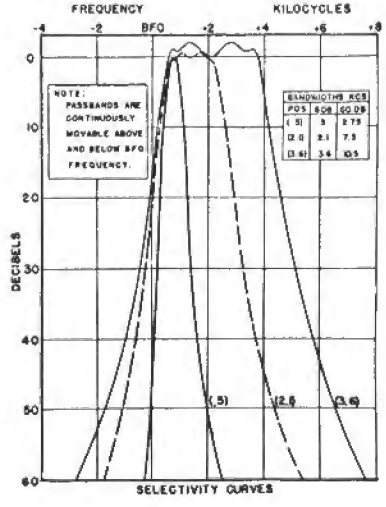
As has been referred to before, the I-F selectivity is set to 2.1 kc for RTTY work. This coupled with the bandpass filter in the RTTY terminal unit serves to exactly define the passband for 850 cps FSK signals, and as a matter of fact it was found that the system can separate and print even RTTY signals separated by scarcely over 1 kc. And for NFSK work, especially on 100 cps or 170 cps, the I-F passband can be set to 0.5 kc when used with appropriate bandpass filter-discriminator in the TU. On either bandwidths (850 cps or 170 cps) the noise balance is very pronounced, and the passband control is adjusted carefully on no-signal to symmetrize the TU's response. This then adjusts the entire system to allow it to "dig in" for the weak RTTY signals. With such controls set correctly, the RTTY receiver system is single knob control; just tune in the RTTY signal and print! No fooling around with other controls, generally speaking!

The DRAKE 2-B receiver, as is, is immediately useable as a RTTY receiver, and what a receiver it is! The first really complete and optimized receiver I have ever run across in my many years of amateur operating! Considering the price, the receiver offers many quality features and it seems to be quite well built. It fills a much sorely needed place in the amateur radio picture for a stable and selective receiver at a reasonable price. As a matter of fact this DRAKE 2-B works just as well or better than a 75S3 receiver at almost three times the price. Very surprising, but that's a fact! The only thing that the Collins receiver has is a higher order of dial-frequency calibration accuracy, using a expensive-to-produce linearized permeability tuned oscillator unit. However the DRAKE 2-B can be relied upon to almost the same dial calibration accuracy (1 kc) if one has access to a 100 kc standard with 10 kc multivibrator. The important thing, however, is that the receiver be capable of ease of tuning in on FSK or other signal and of holding same for long periods of time without retuning. And under such a condition and for other pointed-out reasons the DRAKE 2-B receiver is considered a BEST BUY under the present states of radio receiver design and also of market prices.

It fully measures up to the performance of the costliest receivers, and then even more than that! I shall at least mention a certain point from personal experience — the matter of receiver stability against power line voltage variations. Certain models of the high priced make have been found to be quite poor as regards frequency stability

against powerline voltage variations. As a comparison, the 75A series of receivers as well a the 51J's and other equipment incorporating the permeability tuned oscillator design of recent years have been found to have a 300 to 400 cps frequency change with 10 percent line voltage variation. The DRAKE 2-B was found to have just 31 cps frequency change under similar conditions. It appears that the Collins PTO's have not been adequately stabilized against line voltage changes, and the trouble resides in the insufficient isolation of the oscillator tube's filament circuit from its tuned circuits. As a mater of fact, one 75A3 receiver (W6MTJ's) was specially fitted with a DC Zener voltage regulated filament supply for its PTO, and its line voltage effect was reduced to matter of 5 or 10 cycles rather than 300 or 400 cps as it used to have. It is interesting to note that of all Collins equipment, only the KWS-1 transmitter has a filament voltage regulator on its PTO. So . . . as the radio art advances inexorably, must the radio equipment improve to keep up with the increasingly stringent requirements of stability and selectivity on such difficult signals as RTTY and SSB.

The DRAKE 2-B receiver represents a distinct advance in radio receiver design, and it is the ideal all-around receiver capable of receiving signals anywhere in the spectrum 3 to 30 mc. It is a compact package that blends well with the decor of any place — office desk, living room, or hamshack. Its mechanical stability is surprising — it can be roughly bumped or even dropped several inches onto a table without even causing a detuning on a signal (including a NFSK RTTY!). This would make a good mobile receiver when used with a transistorized inverter supply.



The only modification done to the Drake 2-B receiver at W6NRM was to make its BFO adjustable in frequency; in two steps spaced 5 kc apart. In other words, the BFO "ON-OFF" control was rewired to switch a 470 mmf capacitor to move the BFO lower in frequency by 5 kc. This permits the Passband Tuning Control to be left alone in approximate center of its tuning range, and normal or inverted RTTY signals can be easily tuned in simply by throwing this BFO Frequency Switch either way as required. On the 80-meter band this control is set one way; on the rest of the bands, the other way when accomodating normal FSK signals (Mark frequency on high side.) This is because the Drake heterodyning system is straight-through on 80 meter, and is reversed when working the higher bands. All in all this simple modification (and the only modification done to this really fine receiver since several months of operation) permits you to "keep" the signal in while switching sidebands — without losing signal and returning. But the original 2-B as purchased from the dealer is immediately useable for optimum RTTY reception, so this is no worry. The modification can be made any time, and it can be removed readily without harming in any way the receiver's resale value.

The Drake receiver has, available as accessories, Q-multiplier-speaker, crystal calibrator, or separate speaker. For RTTY work, however, I have found the basic 2-B receiver unit to be perfectly suited. And it is a fine CW receiver, too.

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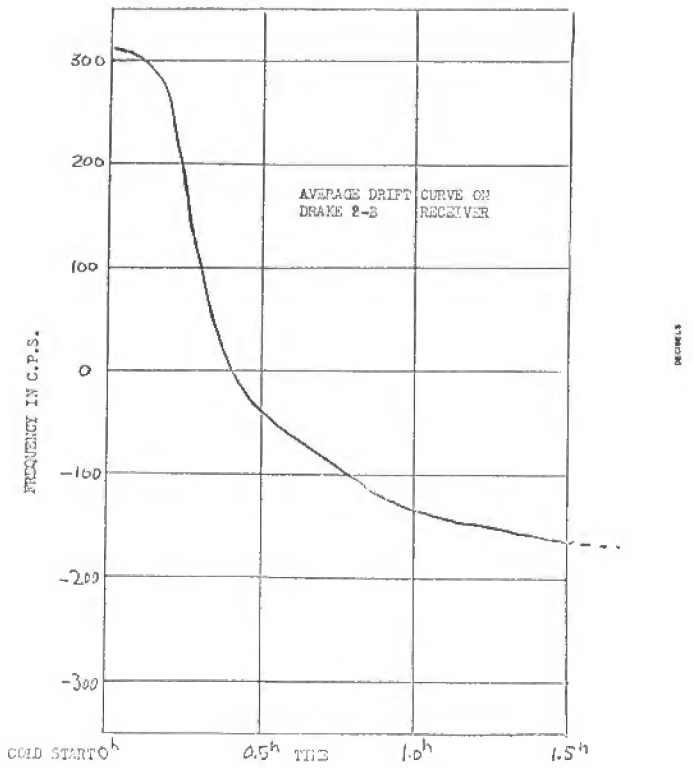


ARMED FORCES DAY RATT MESSAGE

CQ CQ CQ DE NDW NDW NDW BT

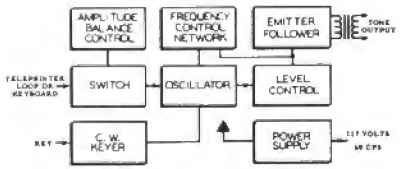
All amateur radio operators are invited to copy the message to follow and submit the transcribed copy to Armed Forces Day Contest CMM RM 5B96O CMM the Pentagon CMM Washington 25, D.C. PD A certificate of merit will be awarded to each participant who submits a perfect copy made from the radioteletypewriter transmission of this message BT.

CQ CQ CQ DE NDW NDW NDW NR 1
R-192130Z
FM Washington D.C.
To all radio amateurs
GR198 BT

Of the many and varied areas of interest and activity available to radio amateurs perhaps none presents such a challenge to the electro dash mechanical abilities of a radio amateur as assembling and operating an amateur radioteletypewriter station PD From learning how to type to final and daily adjustment of his equipment CMM a radio amateur can be justly proud of his accomplishment upon completion of his first successful radioteletypewriter contact PD No other type of radio tranmission CMM generally available to radio amateurs CMM can equal the speed and accuracy of communication by radioteletype PD In mastering this advanced form of amateur radio station operation an amateur provides the amateur service a potential for emergency public service that is unequalled by any other single means of communication PD The Armed Forces Communications Services and the Department of Defense recognize this potential PD They recognize also the individual initiative CMM effort and technical ability required to successfully communicate by this advanced means PD Speaking for the Department of Defense and its communications services I commend each of you for your accomplishments and wish you success in all your future endeavors. SGD Robert S. McNamara CMM Secretary of Defense BT.

QRU AR
DE A6FLW NR 1
R 050145Z
FM A6FLW
To A6FLW
GR 133 BT

Broadcast number two two routine from headquarters MARS four June six two to all MARS members PD Four thousand one hundred and six one contacts were made with amateur stations by war CMM NSS and air on Armed Forces Day. one nine May six two PD QSL cards confirming each of these contacts are being prepared and mailed daily by the three services PD No figures are yet available on the total number of certificates awarded for copying the special CW and RATT Armed Forces Day messages PD. The certificates will be prepared and mailed to contestants as soon as possible PD The total number of amateurs participating in this annual event increases each year PD The increased participation encourages and insures the continuance of this phase of the Armed Forces Day Program. BT



BLOCK DIAGRAM OF TK-100

FREQUENCY SHIFT TONE KEYER MODEL TK-100

A Versatile Frequency Shift Tone Keyer for Teletypewriter and Control Applications on Carrier or SSB Systems

Electrocom Industries, 1105 Ironwood Drive, South Bend, Indiana

FEATURES:

- **Fully transistorized**
- **Uniquely Mark/Space amplitude balance control**
- **Variable level adjustment**
- **DC loop current or contact keying**
- **High stability, precision tuned, plug-in frequency control network**
- **Self-contained AC power supply**
- **C W keying**
- **Station control selector**
- **Quality construction throughout — hermetically sealed frequency network and quality components for reliability**
- **Reverse shift sense provision**
- **Electronic keying — no relay required**

DESCRIPTION:

The Electron Model TK-100 is a self-contained, solid state audio tone oscillator that may be keyed by current input or contact closure to either of two tone frequencies. These keyed tones are suitable for feeding into audio amplifiers of AM or FM transmitters or over telephone lines for transmitting Audio Frequency Shift (AFSK) teletypewriter, data, or control signals. This tone keyer is also suitable for use with high suppression (50 db. or greater) single sideband suppressed carried transmitters for generating Frequency Shift (FSK) signals. Provision is incorporated for C W keying of either tone, primarily for identification purposes.

A high degree of stability is achieved by the use of a semiconductor regulated power supply and a hermetically sealed, precision tuned control network. This network is a plug-in assembly incorporating a quality toroidal inductor, and may be changed for use on different tone channels or frequency shifts. Both output level and mark/space amplitude balance controls are supplied as screwdriver adjustments. In addition, suitable switching is provided on the front panel of the TK-100 to facilitate complete station control when operating on radio-teletype.

The entire assembly is attractively packaged in a modernistic drawn aluminum cabinet with an etched aluminum panel having raised lettering. A 3½ inch high by 19 inch wide standard rack mounting panel is also available. One panel can accommodate up to three TK-100 keyers.

Modifications of the TK-100 are available for use with various special equipments or systems. These include tone networks for 1275 and 2125 cps for use with restricted passband SSB tranmitter (such as the Collins S-Line, KWM-2, etc.), narrow shift tone networks, and special models for use within existing equipment. Electrocom engineers are prepared to assist in special system planning.

SPECIFICATIONS:

Audio Output: .5 volt rms into 600 ohm resistive load, variable level control

Output Impedance: 600 ohms nominal, unbalanced or balanced

Operating Temperature Range: –20 to 65° C.

Standard Tone Frequencies: 2125 and 2975 cps°

Calibration Accuracy (25° C. Ambient): ±5 cps°

F S Input Signal (Normal or Reverse Sensing):

1. Current Input: 20 to 60 ma. for mark, 0 ma. for space
2. Contact closure (1.5 ma. circulated thru contacts)
3. Voltage input: 12 to 20 v. for mark, 0 v. for space, 2000 ohm maximum source resistance

C W input signal: Keying contacts

Maximum F S keying speed: 200 WPM (150 bauds)

Power input: 95 to 135 volts, 50/60 cps, 10 watts

Case: Aluminum, grey enamel, 5-1/4 x 3-1/4 x 5 inches deep

Panel: Etched aluminum, blue-grey enamel background

Chassis: Aluminum, iridite finish

Weight: 2.5 pounds

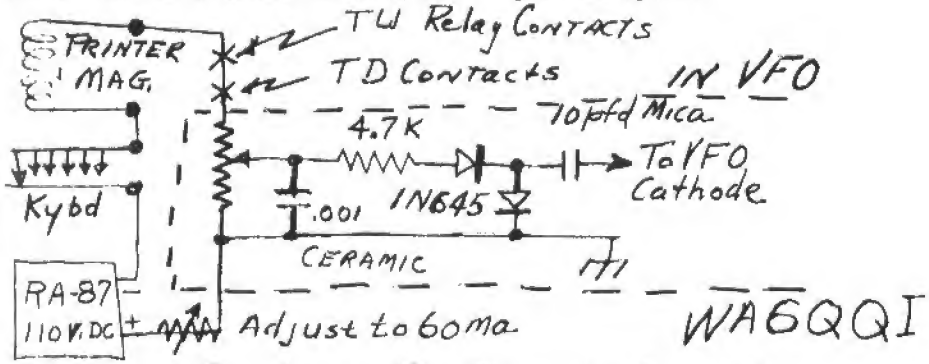
°Other frequencies and calibration accuracies available on special order.

FSK FOR BC-696

Douglas K. Beck — WA6QQI

Here is a circuit I have been playing with in a BC696 for about two years which might be of interest to those looking for a cheaper and dirtier way of getting FSK on the air. The loop supply is a Teletype Corp. RA74 and is unregulated. So far this has caused no instability problems. The circuit may be used with a vacuum tube diode, but this seems to cause an excessive amount of initial frequency drift.

The lash up was developed for use in MARS circuits to get away from the messieness of using a split circuit to transmit and receive. If AC pickup of the line to the VFO is troublesome shielded-twisted pair will help some.

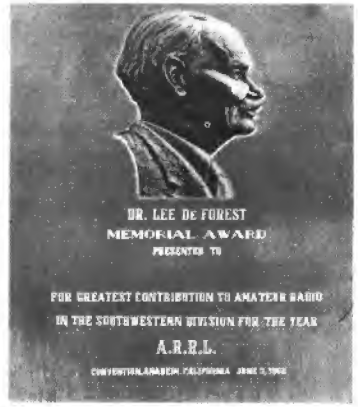


Dr. Lee De Forest Award

The Amateur Radio Operators of the Southwestern United States are sponsoring a perpetual memorial award in honor of Dr. Lee De Forest.

Dr. De Forest is known as the father of radio for his many contributions to the electronic field. He is known primarily for his invention of the vacuum tube in 1907. It has been stated that his patent on the vacuum tube is one of the most important ever issued by the patent office.

The Award has been established by the 1962 Committee of the Southwest Division of the ARRL Convention. The award will be presented to the person who makes the year's greatest contribution to amateur radio. Nominations are open to any person who resides in Arizona; or in California, from San Luis Obispo to the Mexican Border. It is not a requirement for the person nominated to hold an amateur radio license.



Judges for the award are: Ray Meyers, San Gabriel, Calif.; Judge John Martin, San Diego, Calif.; State Legislator Jim Holmes, Santa Barbara, Calif.; Honorable Herbert Hoover, Jr., Los Angeles, Calif.; and E. A. Marshall, Phoenix, Arizona.

Mrs. De Forest will present the award at the banquet.

DX-RTTY

Bud Schultz, W6CG
5226 N. Willmonte Ave.
Temple City, California

Hi Dx'ers:

Let's go to press with the latest scoop from the DX mailbag. Activity seems to be increasing by leaps and bounds as more new ones show up on the green keys every week. Couple of new ones reported by "old faithful," K3GIF, are DL1GP and LA7E. Ed says that Hans, DL1GP, has been putting in a fine signal on 14Mcs from Flensburg. Hans is using a two-tube converter and seems to be copying sigs from this side of the Atlantic. Ed reports, however, that DL1GP is busy building a W6NRM Mark III T.U. and hopes to have it perking shortly. LA7E has been putting Norway back on the DX list in the past couple of weeks and his signals have been reported by a number of the gang. Still no word from my European reporter, G3CQE, but my spies tell me that Bill is still working on the SSB exciter. Please come back, Bill, all is forgiven! From G2UK's BARTG news letter I learned that the VERON RTTY news bulletin is now in full swing from PAOAA each Friday evening on 3625Kcs. Some good DX news is included in this broadcast and all who can, are requested to send reports of it's reception to PAOYZ. This is unique service so please encourage the boys at PAOAA by sending along to them any RTTY news you may have. Also from the BARTG News letter I learned that Shank, GM8FM has been quite active on 15 and 20 meters with good success. Shank has a scheme up his sleeve to get another European Country (?) on the air with RTTY but needs a keyboard for a Creed Type 7. Anyone able to help should contact Shank direct.

If any of you still are hurting for South America why not give OA4BN a blast? Frank is on the air every time I turn my receiver on and his signals leave nothing to be desired. Another good feature about Frank is the fact that he QSL's 100%! Puerto Rico is now a hot bed of activity on FSK with new stations turning up every week led by KP4GN. Look for them around 14.090 Mcs. most any time of the day or night Bob, TG9AD, is also back on the active list with his usual S-9 rock crusher. While I was reporting on European activity in the column above I failed to mention the fact that Bruno, I1RIF, is still very much in evidence on 14 Mcs. nearly every evening. This month I am avoiding the chance to brag about Bruno's signal lest someone accuses me of being his publicity agent. All I can say is that you have to hear I1RIF to believe it!!

Now that winter is just around the corner down in the South Pacific the SPRATS gang are starting to roll into the States like Gangbusters. Every weekend finds Eric, VK3KF, busy on the band from about 0400 until the band folds about 0800. Alec, ZL3HJ, has also been showing up quite regularly about this same time. VK2EG, Bill, now has his Model 26 and is ready to go as soon as he can iron out a motor speed problem. Bill's 26 has a 60 cycle sync motor and he is on 50 cycle mains. Anyone who can tell us where to find a brush type motor for a Model 26 please drop a line to the QTH at the head of this column or to W6AEE. We're very anxious to get VK2EG on RTTY and any help would sure be appreciated.

This month I am proud to anuounce two new members of the exclusive "WAC-RTTY" group. Nr 23 goes to ZS6UR and nr 24 is VK3KF. Congratulations to both for a very fine job!! When I advised Eric, VK3KF, that I had received his final WAC confirmation direct from OA4BN and that his award was on the way he said: "—in over 35 years of hamming this will be the first Award I have ever put on my shack wall." We're pleased that you feel that way about it, Eric!!

The DX committee has been busy working on the rules for the Second Annual World-Wide RTTY Sweepstakes which will take place on October 20-22. Only a few minor changes in scoring have been made as a result of a survey of last years contest. We hope to make this even bigger than last year's Clambake and that won't be easy. Although it's still several months away please mark your calendars now so you won't miss out on this mayhem festival. Might be a good idea to get in condition now by living for a couple of week-ends on black coffee and dough-nuts. Another good idea is to take the cover off your printer for the next couple of monthe so your family will get used to the racket. You might also spread a couple of hundred feet of old tape around the shack now so your XYL won't be too "shook up" when the big week-end arrives. It occurs to me that its just as important to condition the family to one of these RTTY Jamborees as it is to harden up the OM. One of the gang told me just the other day that his wife was just starting to speak to him again after our last October winging. Obviously she wasn't prepared properly for such an ordeal as the World-Wide RTTY Sweepstakes!!

My sincere thanks to the many of you who personally made yourselves known to me at the recent Southwestern Division Convention at Disneyland. It was a real pleasure to be able to have an "eyeball QSO" and to know that so many of you are suffering through these wordy paragraphs with me, every month. I wish I could have had more time to spend with each of you but believe me that Convention was a real "pile-up." Your ideas and suggestions were appreciated and I will try to follow through on them in future columns. I might also add that whichever one of you dropped the lighted cigarette in my jacket pocket made quite an impression! I can assure you I got the message.

Thanks for the use of the hall, fellers, and CU next month.

73 — Bud, W6CG

A REPORT ON THE SOUTWESTERN ARRL CONVENTION

Bud Schultz, W6CG

The Southwestern Division ARRL Convention at Disneyland June 1, 2, 3 was billed as "the Convention to top all conventions with fun for the whole family". It most certainly lived up to its billing. Over 3500 hams registered for the activities and the Disneyland Officials estimated that over 10,000 were in attendance at the Saturday afternoon activities! From an RTTY man's point of view the interest shown in this particular facet of our hobby was very gratifying. The RTTY booth, presided over by W6FDJ and W6NRM, was swamped by hundreds of interested hams, many of whom were seeing RTTY in operation for the first time. In addition to a fine demonstration of what takes place in an RTTY operation by W6FDJ the booth contained several models of the now famous W6NRM "Mark Series" terminal units.

The one hour RTTY session on Saturday afternoon was attended by over 750 who heard W6AEE talk on "Teletype for The Radio Amateur." This interesting treatise was based on the article by K2SKK which appeared in the May issue of "RTTY." The interest shown at this meeting by the unusally large attendance left no doubt as to the successful future of RTTY.

The registration for the big banquet on Sunday was so great that two large rooms had to be used to accomodate the "eager eaters." The banquet program was viewed in the "overflow" room by closed circuit television. The opening remarks to this final meeting were made by Herb. Hoover, Jr., W6ZH——the new president of the League ——and an ardent RTTY'er of longstanding. The high point of the banquet was the awarding of the Dr. Lee DeForest Memorial Award for the greatest contribution to Amatuer Radio in the Southwestern Division for the year. Mrs. DeForest presented the award to Merrill Swan, W6AEE, for his outstanding contribution to ham radio thru his efforts to further the interests of RTTY thru-out the World. The crowd's reaction to this announcement proved that it was a most popular choice and those of us in RTTY who have been fortunate enough to have personal contact with Merrill over the years were gratified to know it was a reward, richly deserved. Congratulations, Merrill, from the hundreds of typers who you have helped along the way.

From an RTTY man's point of view the Convention was indeed a great success!!